

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-06 NEA-09 IO-10 ISO-00 ACDA-05

ERDA-05 AF-06 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NASA-01 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OIC-02 SP-02 PA-01 PRS-01

OES-03 SS-15 USIA-06 SAJ-01 NRC-05 /120 W

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R 221800Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7359

INFO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PARM, XM

SUBJ: OPNAL CONFERENCE CONCLUDES

REF: A. MEXICO 3316; B. MEXICO 3350; C. MEXICO 3402

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: OPANAL, WHICH HELD ITS GENERAL CONFERENCE IN MEXICO CITY APRIL 15-18, PRODUCED TWO MINOR RESOLUTIONS CALLING FOR THE ORGANIZATION TO RENEW ITS EFFORTS TO OBTAIN THE ADHERENCE OF ELIGIBLE LATIN AMERICAN STATES TO THE TREATY OF TLATELOLCO AND OF NUCLEAR POWERS (EXCEPT INDIA) TO THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TREATY'S TWO PROTOCOLS. THE CONFERENCE REVEALED THAT OPANAL

IS POORLY ORGANIZED AND WEAKENED BY THE FACT THAT MOST OF ITS MEMBERS ARE UNINTERESTED AND MANY DO NOT MEET THEIR FINANCIAL OBLIGATIONS TO THE ORGANIZATION. MORE SIGNIFICANT THAN WHAT HAPPENED IS WHAT DID NOT HAPPEN (E.G. THE PANAMA CANAL ISSUE WAS NOT RAISED AND NO CLEAR DECISION WAS REACHED ON WHETHER INDIA SHOULD BE CALLED ON TO SIGN PROTOCOL TWO).
END SUMMARY.

2. RESOLUTION ON PROTOCOLS: THE DRAFT RESOLUTION CALLING ON THE U.S. AND FRANCE TO SUBSCRIBE TO PROTOCOL ONE AND THE USSR TO PROTOCOL TWO OF THE TREATY GAVE THE DEADLINE OF FEBRUARY 14, 1976, THE TENTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE OPENING OF THE TREATY FOR SIGNATURE (SEE REFTTEL B, PARA 1). AFTER THE RESOLUTION WAS PASSED AND PUBLISHED IN FINAL FORM, ITS SPONSORS DISCOVERED THAT THEY HAD COMMITTED AN ERROR IN THAT THE TENTH ANNIVERSARY FALLS ON FEBRUARY 14, 1977. CONSEQUENTLY, IT WAS DECIDED THAT THE RESOLUTION SHOULD BE CORRECTED TO SHOW THE LATTER DATE (FEBRUARY 14, 1977). THIS ERROR WAS TYPICAL OF THE MANY ERRORS AND CONFUSION WHICH PREVAILED THROUGHOUT MOST OF THE MEETING.

3. RESOLUTION ON LATIN AMERICAN STATES WHICH HAVE NOT YET JOINED OPANAL: ON APRIL 18, THE CONFERENCE UNANIMOUSLY PASSED A RESOLUTION CALLING ON BRAZIL, CHILE, AND TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO TO RECONSIDER AND RATIFY THE TREATY WITH A WAIVER OF ARTICLE 28; ON ARGENTINA, THE BAHAMAS AND GRANADA TO JOIN OPANAL; AND ON CUBA TO REEXAMINE ITS POSITION IN LIGHT OF THE PREVAILING INTERNATIONAL SITUATION AND JOIN OPANAL ALSO. COMMENT: IT IS INTERESTING TO NOTE THAT THIS RESOLUTION DID NOT LIST SPONSORS AND THAT IT INCORPORATED NO DEADLINE. END COMMENT.

4. OPANAL'S BUDGETARY PROBLEMS: THE SECRETARIAT OF OPANAL HAS BEEN FRUSTRATED AND SEVERELY HANDICAPPED IN ITS PLANS TO EXPAND OPANAL'S FUNCTIONS AND ROLE BY THE FACT THAT THE MAJORITY OF ITS MEMBERS ARE IN ARREARS IN THEIR FINANCIAL OBLIGATIONS TO THE ORGANIZATION. COLOMBIA, EL SALVADOR, PARAGUAY AND NICARAGUA HAVE NEVER PAID ANY OF THEIR DUES. ONLY TWO MEMBERS --MEXICO AND VENEZUELA -- ARE CURRENT WITH THEIR DUES PAYMENTS. FORTUNATELY, SINCE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THESE TWO HAVE THE LARGEST OBLIGATIONS, OPANAL HAS RECEIVED 60-70 PERCENT OF ITS INCOME AND, THEREFORE, HAS ONLY BEEN CRIPPLIED INSTEAD OF BEING COMPLETELY DISABLED. SIGNIFICANTLY, ALL MENTION OF THE FINANCIAL PLIGHT OF OPANAL WAS CONFINED TO PRIVATE MEETINGS AND THERE WERE NO RESOLUTIONS CALLING ON THOSE DELINQUENT TO MEET THEIR OBLIGATIONS.

5. OPANAL AS A PROMOTER OF THE PEACEFUL USES OF NUCLEAR

ENERGY AND MATERIALS; SECRETARY GENERAL GROS ESPIELL, IN A SPEECH APRIL 18, SAID THAT HE HOPES OPANAL WILL BE ABLE TO COORDINATE AND ASSUME A MUCH LARGER ROLE IN THIS FIELD IN LATIN AMERICA DURING THE NEXT TWO YEARS IF MEMBERS MEET THEIR BUDGETARY OBLIGATIONS AND THE SECRETARIAT HAS SUFFICIENT FUNDS FOR THE PROGRAMS IT HAS AND IS PLANNING. AFTER THE MEETING EMBOFF LEARNED THAT THE SPECIAL FUND ESTABLISHED FOR THIS PURPOSE IN 1969 HAS ONLY U.S. \$160,000 IN IT AS A RESULT OF TWO CONTRIBUTIONS FROM MEXICO. THIS SMALL BUDGET IS ONE OF THE TWO REASONS OPANAL HAS NOT LAUNCHED ITS PLANNED SAFEGUARDS TRAINING PROGRAM WHICH INCLUDES TWO MONTHS IN VIENNA WITH THE I.A.E.A., ONE MONTH IN A NUCLEAR ADVANCED NATION (THE U.S., FRANCE OR WEST GERMANY), AND ONE MONTH OF WORK IN AND FOR OPANAL. THE SECOND REASON THIS PROGRAM HAS NOT BEEN LAUNCHED IS THAT THE ONLY NATIONS WHICH HAVE SUBMITTED NAMES OF CANDIDATES FOR TRAINING ARE THOSE WHICH HAVE NOT GIVEN ANY FINANCIAL SUPPORT TO OPANAL, A FACT WHICH SURPRISES AND DISMAYS THE SECRETARIAT.

6. SPEECHES BY OBSERVERS: SIX OBSERVERS MADE SPEECHES AT THE PLENARY ON APRIL 18. FINLAND, NEW ZEALAND AND IRAN SAID THEY HOPED THAT OPANAL WOULD SERVE AS A MODEL FOR AND ASSIST IN THE CREATION OF NUCLEAR FREE ZONES (NFZ) IN OTHER PARTS OF THE WORLD. EACH NOTED THAT ITS GOVERNMENT HAD ADVOCATED AN NFZ IN ITS OWN AREA. THE BRAZILIAN OBSERVER CONFINED HIS REMARKS TO NOTING THAT THE COSTA RICAN DELEGATE HAD QUOTED THE PRIVATE OPINION OF A BRAZILIAN PARLIAMENTARIAN ON APRIL 17 (SEE REFTTEL C, PARA 6), NOTED THAT THE BRAZILIAN GOVERNMENT HAD STATED THAT ITS NUCLEAR FACILITIES WOULD BE USED EXCLUSIVELY FOR PEACEFUL PURPOSES AND COMPLETELY REFRAINED FROM CRITICIZING THE COSTA RICAN DELEGATE. (AFTER THE MEETING THE BRAZILIAN EXPLAINED TO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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EMBOFF THAT HE CONSIDERED IT INAPPROPRIATE FOR AN OBSERVER TO ENGAGE IN POLEMICS IN AN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE.) THE BRITISH AND DUTCH OBSERVERS EACH NOTED THAT THEIR OWN NATIONS HAD BEEN LONG-STANDING SUPPORTERS OF OPANAL. IN ADDITION DUTCH AMBASSADOR BEREND JAN SLINGENBERG ANNOUNCED THAT HOLLAND WILL GRANT INDEPENDENCE TO SURINAM WITHIN A YEAR AND THAT HIS GOVERNMENT HOPES SURINAM WILL JOIN OPANAL. THIS ANNOUNCEMENT STRUCK A RESPONSIVE CHORD AMNG OPANAL MEMBERS WHO PRAISED HOLLAND'S POSITION IN SEVERAL SPEECHES.

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FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

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INFO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

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7. WHAT DID NOT HAPPEN: THE PANAMANIAN DELEGATION DID NOT RAISE THE CANAL ZONE ISSUE AND TOOK VERY LITTLE PART IN OPANAL PROCEEDINGS. VENEZUELA DID NOT ANNOUNCE THAT IT WAS DROPPING ITS OPPOSITION TO GUYANA'S JOINING OPANAL, CONTRARY TO THE OPANAL SECRETARIAT'S PRIVATE PREDICTION TWO WEEKS BEFORE THE CONFERENCE. THE FACT THAT VENEZUELA, JOINED BY COLOMBIA AND GUATEMALA, VOTED AGAINST EXTENDING THE MANDATE OF THE GOOD OFFICES COMMITTEE TO FIND A SOLUTION TO THE VENEZUELA GUYANA PROBLEM FOR THE FIRST TIME IN OPANAL'S HISTORY, ACCORDING TO THE SECRETARIAT, PROVED THAT THESE DELEGATIONS SIMPLY HAD NOT DONE THEIR HOME WORK AND

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DID NOT KNOW THAT THEIR OWN GOVERNMENTS HAD NOT OBJECTED TO IDENTICAL RESOLUTIONS ON PREVIOUS OCCASIONS. THE CONFERENCE PREFERRED TO IGNORE THE INCONSISTENCIES BETWEEN THE SECRETARY GENERAL'S REPORT, WHICH IT APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY ON APRIL 17 INCLUDING A PARAGRAPH STATING THAT INDIA SHOULD BE ASKED TO SIGN PROTOCOL TWO (SEE REFTEL C, PARA 5) AND THE FACT THAT THE RESOLUTION WHICH THE CONFERENCE ALSO PASSED AT THE SAME PLENARY ON PROTOCOLS ONE AND TWO MADE NO REFERENCE TO INDIA. ECUADOR BRIEFLY DISPUTED THIS PARAGRAPH OF THE REPORT APRIL 17, BUT THERE WAS NO FURTHER PUBLIC DISCUSSION OF THE ISSUE. (IN RESPONSE TO EMBOFF'S QUESTION, GONZALEZ GALVEZ OF THE MEXICAN DELEGATION SAID THAT INDIA WAS NOT MENTIONED IN THE RESOLUTION ON THE PROTOCOL WHICH MEXICO AND SIX OTHERS SPONSORED BECAUSE THE MEMBERS OF OPANAL HAVE NOT REACHED A CONSENSUS ON THE MATTER.) LIKEWISE, WHILE THE CONFERENCE DID RENEW THE MANDATE OF THE GOOD OFFICES COMMITTEE, IT NEVER ADDRESSED ITSELF TO THE ISSUE RAISED BY MEXICO ON THE ONE HAND, WHICH WANTED TO EXPAND THE COMMITTEE TO FIVE, AND BY ECUADOR ON THE OTHER, WHICH WANTED TO ABOLISH THE COMMITTEE AND TURN ITS MANDATES OVER TO OPANAL'S COUNCIL. THE COMMITTEE CONTINUES WITH THREE MEMBERS AND THE COUNCIL CONTINUES TO BE MORE A AN ADMINISTRATIVE THAN POLICY BODY. FINALLY, CUBA AND THE USSR DID NOT SEND OBSERVERS TO THE CONFERENCE AND BARBADOS, A MEMBER OF OPANAL, DID NOT SEND A DELEGATION.

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